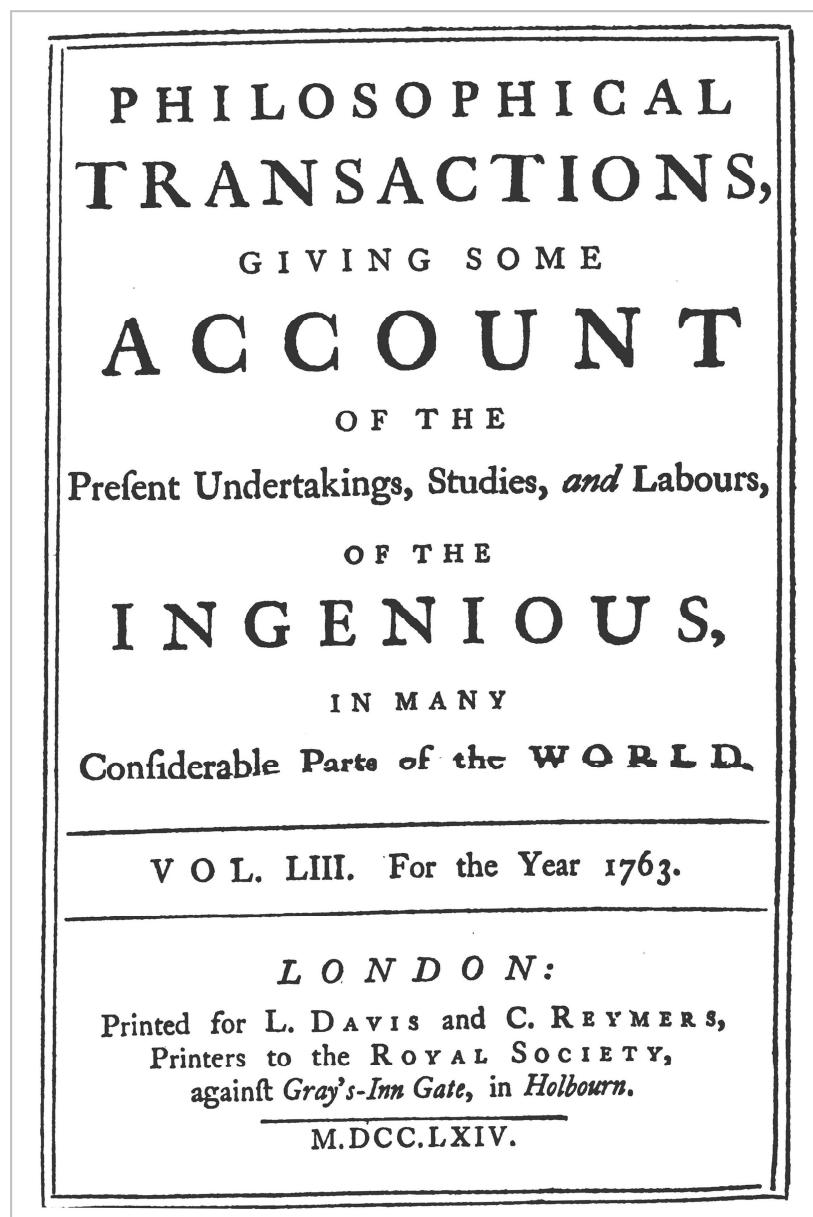


Джеймс Стирлинг, Сообщение о необычной темноте в городе Детройте в Америке.

James Stirling, An Account of a remarkable Darkness at Detroit in America:
In a Letter from the Rev. Mr., to Mr. John Duncan (published, 1873, 1 Jan).
- Philosophical Transactions, London, 1764, V 53, 63-64.



Лондон

1764

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Перевод на русский язык и оформление

2016
М. Теппоне,
"Истина сделает вас свободными"

**Сообщение о необычной темноте в городе Детройте в Америке:
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Сэр,

25-го октября 1762

Человек, занимающийся делом, редко обращает внимание на новости; но то, о чем я хочу сообщить, было настолько необычным, что я не могу, не познакомит вас с этим явлением. В прошлый вторник, т.е. 19-го октября наступило почти полное затмение, продолжавшееся в течение большей части дня. Я проснулся утром, примерно через десять минут после того я отметил, что рассвет не наступал. Такая же темнота продолжалась до девяти часов, когда наметилось небольшое прояснение. Затем, примерно в течение четверти часа, мы наблюдали круг солнца, который имел красный цвет, напоминающий кровь, но круг был более чем в три раза, больше, чем обычно. Все это время воздух был очень плотный, грязно желтоватого цвета. В час дня мне пришлось зажечь свечи, чтобы подготовить все к обеду, хотя стол находился рядом с двумя большими окнами. Около трех часов дня, темнота стала еще более выраженной, и далее она усиливалась до половины четвертого; в течение этого времени ветер дул с юго-западного направления, принося капли дождя, серы и грязи; по запаху и по другим свойствам, падающие капли содержали {63} больше грязи и серы, чем воды. Я взял чистой лист бумаги и вынес его на открытый воздух; и капли дождя, падающие на лист бумаги, оставляли на нем черные пятна; после экспозиции листа бумаги рядом с огнем, чернота превратилась в желтый цвет; после сжигания бумаги остался влажный пепел. Во время этого дождя воздух был насыщен сильным удушливым запахом серы. После дождя наблюдалось небольшое прояснение. Существуют различные предположения о причинах этого природного явления. Индейцы, а также простолюдины среди французов, говорили, что англичане, которые прибыли на лодках со стороны Ниагары совсем недавно, привезли с собой чуму; другое предположение – это связь темноты с горением леса: но мне кажется, что наиболее вероятной причиной могло быть последствием извержения какого-то вулкана или подземного огня, в результате чего сернистый дым, поднялся в воздух и находится там до тех пор, пока не перемешался с парами воды, и упал вниз вместе с дождем {64} [Детройт, 25-го октября 1762 года; прочитано 3-го марта 1763 года].

Sir,

A Man in business seldom troubles himself about news; yet the following is uncommon, I cannot neglect acquainting you therewith. Tuesday last, being the 19th instant, we had almost total darkness for the most of the day. I got up at day-break: about 10 minutes after, I observed it got no lighter than before; the same darkness continued until nine o'clock, when it cleared up a little. We then, for the space of about a quarter of an hour, saw the body of the sun, which appeared as red as blood, and more than three times as large as usual. The air all the time, which was very dense, was of a dirty yellowish green colour. I was obliged to light candles to fee to dine, at one o'clock, notwithstanding the table was placed close by two large windows. About 3 the darkness became more horrible, which augmented until half an hour past 3, when the wind breezed up from the S.W., and brought on some drops of rain, or rather sulphur and dirt; for it appeared more like the latter than the former {63}, both in smell and quality. I took a leaf of clean paper, and held it out in the rain, which rendered it black whenever the drops fell upon it; but, when held near the fire, turned 10 a yellow colour, and when burned, it fizzed on the paper like wet powder. During this shower, the air was almost suffocating with a strong sulphureous smell; it cleared up a little after the rain. There were various conjectures about the cause of this natural incident. The Indians, and vulgar among the French, said, that the English, which lately arrived from Niagara in the vessel, had brought the plague with them; others imagined it might have been occasioned by the burning of the woods: but I think it most probable, that it might have been occasioned by the eruption of some volcano, or subterraneous fire, whereby the sulphureous matter may have been emitted in the air, and contained therein, until, meeting with some watery clouds, it has fallen down together with the rain {64}.

[XV. An Account of a remarkable Darkness at Detroit in America: In a Letter from the Rev. Mr. James Stirling, to Mr. John Duncan: Communicated by Samuel Mead, Esq; F. R. S. Detroit, 25th Oct. 1762; Read March 3, 1763. - Phil. Trans [Philosophical Transactions, giving some Account of the Present Undertakings, Studies, and Labours, of the Ingenious in many Considerable Parts of the World], For the Year 1763. – London: Printed for L. Davis, 1764, V 53, 63-64, published 1 January 1763]

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VOL. LIII. For the Year 1763.

London:

Printed for L. DAVIS and C. REYMERs,
Printers to the ROYAL SOCIETY,
against Gray's-Inn Gate, in Holbourn.

M.DCC.LXIV.

[63]

XV. *An Account of a remarkable Darkness at Detroit, in America: In a Letter from the Rev. Mr. James Stirling, to Mr. John Duncan: communicated by Samuel Mead, Esq; F. R. S.*

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I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

James Stirling.

XVI. *An*